

EXCERPTS FROM CURRENT INTELLIGENCE DIGEST

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

RELEASE IN FULL

2003

31. Guatemalan Communist emergency plans call for seizure of private plantations: The Communist-controlled labor and farm workers confederations in Guatemala have instructed their local branches to seize control of private farms in the event of an emergency, according to a source considered reliable by the American embassy. The workers have been instructed, on receipt of an emergency call from either confederation or from President Arbenz, to seize all vehicles and supplies on the plantations and to escort the owners or managers unharmed to the nearest authorities. (S Guatemala City 946, 10 June 54)

Comment: This report strengthens previous evidence that the Communists are preparing for vigorous action to counter any attack on them or on the Arbenz regime.

Communist-controlled local agrarian committees are strong in the rich agricultural area along the Pacific coast, particularly in the Department of Escuintla, where some have already assumed many of the functions of local government. Last December and January farm workers in this area were incited to invade numerous private properties in what the American embassy considered an effort to condition the workers to violent action under Communist leadership.